

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 70 Aug 1953

SUBJECT Change in the Regime

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE
ACQUIRED - - -

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE
ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF IN

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS DOCUMENT IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

1. The purge of Beria was no surprise [redacted] The only surprise [redacted] was that this purge occurred in such a relatively short time after Stalin's death and that its victim was the "strong man" of Soviet hierarchy. In its implications [redacted] this event is apt to create a rather dangerous situation for the West because Malenkov in his foreign policy will not be hampered by any restrictions coming from the three men rule. In this regard, [redacted] the purge is the end of an accomplished fact rather than the beginning of some troubles to come. This impression is strongly justified through the appointment of Sergei Kruglov as the new Minister of the Interior.

25X1

2. This man, who is an old time career officer of the secret police, in this high post will certainly not have the same political power that Beria has had, but through his appointment Malenkov in all probability was assured of the complete and loyal support of the secret police organization. Our best, and only hope, of course, would have been to see the secret police fight for its former chief, which, of course, would have meant the outbreak of the Civil War in the USSR, for which we are all hoping.

25X1

25X1

3. The inclusion of Kruglov in the Soviet Government, [redacted] not only forestalls every such hope, but on the contrary is likely to bring with it a further consolidation of the post-Stalin Government in the USSR.

4. Together with Abakumov, he and General Merkulov formed a running team of the highest police echelon under Beria, and they were ultimately entrusted with the MGB and MVD Ministries.

25X1
25X1

- end -

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

DISTRIBUTION

State EV

25X1

25X1